

AMERICANS GRIEVE AS A LIFE FLICKERS OUT

CS 10/13/98
Heidi Thomsen/The Gazette



Julie Krueger, left, and Linda Randolph attend a candlelight vigil Monday at Acacia Park. The vigil was organized by local support groups and a church to honor Matthew Shepard and protest against hate crimes in all forms.

With death of gay man, two may get top penalty

■ Clinton calls for expanded hate-crime legislation to protect 'people who are different.'

Associated Press

LARAMIE, Wyo. — A gay college student who was lured from a campus hangout, beaten and lashed to a split-rail fence died Monday, and the two men arrested in the attack now face murder charges that could bring the death penalty.

Matthew Shepard, 21, died at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins while on life support. His skull was so badly smashed that doctors could not perform surgery, hospital President Rulon Stacey said.

The University of Wyoming student had been in a coma since bicyclists found him in near-freezing temperatures Wednesday evening. They at first mistook him for a scarecrow.

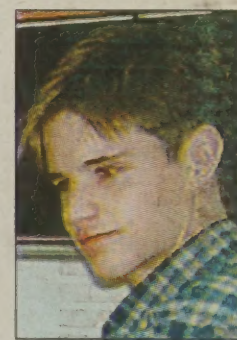
The attack has spurred calls nationwide for hate-crimes legislation protecting gays. President Clinton pressed Congress to expand the federal hate-crimes law to cover offenses based on disability or sexual orientation.

"Americans will once again search their hearts and do what they can to reduce their own fear and anxiety and anger at people who are different," Clinton said. "And I hope that Congress will pass the hate-crime legislation."

Russell Henderson, 21, and Aaron McKinney, 22, were originally charged with attempted murder, kidnapping and aggravated robbery, and jailed on \$100,000 bail each.

Police said with Shepard's death, the charges against them will be upgraded to first-degree murder, which carries a possible death sentence.

Their girlfriends — Chastity Pasley, 20, and Kristen Price, 18 — were charged with being



Shepard: Beaten, lashed to fence and left to die.

500 gather to speak out against intolerance

By Ovetta Sampson and Scott Thomsen
The Gazette

Ron Eby, who lives in Colorado Springs, didn't know Matthew Shepard, but he felt devastated by the Wyoming college student's brutal death.

Eby, president of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center, spoke to about 500 people gathered in Acacia Park on Monday night for a solemn candlelight vigil honoring Shepard.

Eby's voice cracked and he choked back tears. "The struggle for human rights can exclude no one," he said.

The Rev. Nori Rost of the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church led the vigil, which was part memo-

rial, part testimonial and part worship service. It included a call for legislation that would make harming a person because of sexual orientation a hate crime that carries additional penalties.

Wyoming has no hate crime laws, which add jail time for criminal acts motivated by racial, religious or ethnic biases. Colorado does, but the law does not include sexual orientation. According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, a Washington-based lobbying group, Colorado is among 19 states that do not include sexual orientation in their hate-crime legislation.

See HATE/A8

See STUDENT/A8

radio avenues has 1,050 spaces.

■ A story in the business section of Saturday's Gazette incorrectly identified Colorado as a right-to-work state.

The Gazette

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TO REACH AN EDITOR

Steven A. Smith, Editor
636-0105; editor@gazette.com
FAX: 636-0202

Jon Stepleton, Public Editor
636-0220; stepleton@gazette.com

Terri Fleming, Managing Editor
636-0384; tfleming@gazette.com

Jim Borden, Assistant Managing Editor
476-1654; jborden@gazette.com

Jo Ann Barrow, News Editor
636-0140; jbarrow@gazette.com

Cliff Foster, City Editor
636-0363; foster@gazette.com

Dan Njgomir, Editorial Page Editor
636-0210; gtop@gazette.com

Jeff Thomas, Business Editor
636-0372; jeff@gazette.com

Joan Zales, Features Editor
636-0273; zales@gazette.com

Ralph Routon, Sports Editor
636-0251; routon@gazette.com

Susan Edmondson, Entertainment Editor
636-0270; susane@gazette.com

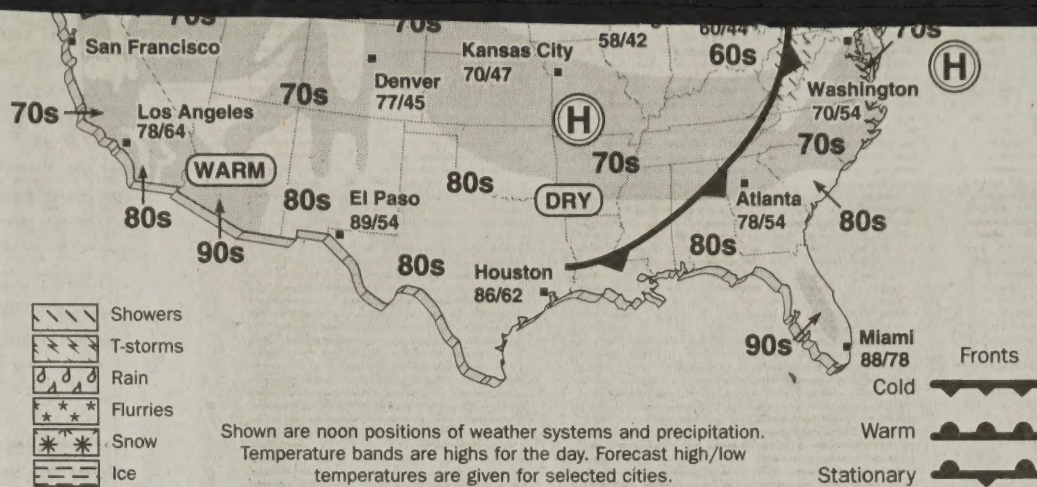
Stuart Wong, Director of Photography
636-0245; stewart@gazette.com

Peter Pauley, Art Director
636-0145; ppauley@gazette.com

Victor Greto, Our Town Editor
636-0182; dorazio@gazette.com

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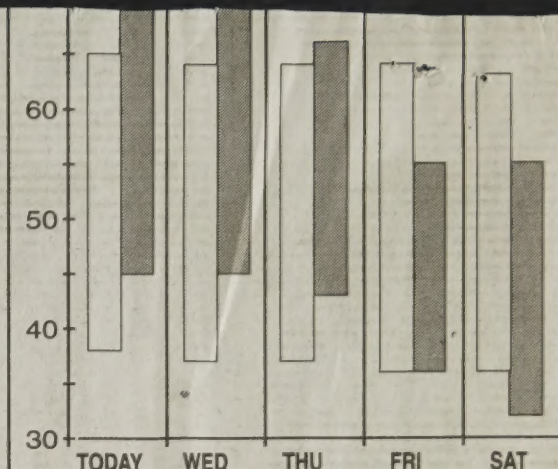
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Albq., NM	81 50 s	84 52 s	84 49 s	74 43 pc
Amarillo, TX	77 51 s	82 55 s	87 54 s	77 48 pc
Anchorage, AK	43 33 sh	42 32 sh	41 23 sh	32 22 sf
Atlanta, GA	80 57 s	78 54 s	76 54 s	77 56 s
Atl. City, NJ	66 45 pc	66 49 pc	63 44 pc	65 45 pc
Austin, TX	86 65 sh	86 62 pc	87 64 s	84 67 s
Bangor, ME	57 38 pc	57 39 s	52 39 r	53 38 sh
Billings, MT	65 43 pc	68 43 pc	63 37 pc	52 31 r
Birmingham, AL	83 51 s	82 47 s	79 51 s	78 54 s
Bismarck, ND	49 25 sn	50 34 pc	56 35 c	58 36 r
Boise, ID	72 48 pc	67 40 pc	65 34 pc	49 31 sh
Boston, MA	62 47 pc	58 47 pc	57 44 sh	58 46 pc
Buffalo, NY	66 51 pc	62 44 sh	51 39 pc	57 44 pc
Burlington, VT	62 46 pc	61 48 pc	54 37 c	53 39 c
Casper, WY	70 38 pc	73 40 pc	65 36 pc	57 30 r
Charleston, SC	81 58 s	80 58 s	79 56 s	79 58 pc
Charleston, WV	74 47 s	70 43 pc	62 43 s	72 49 pc
Charlotte, NC	77 54 s	78 52 pc	74 50 s	75 53 s
Cheyenne, WY	72 37 s	73 43 s	66 37 pc	61 31 r
Chicago, IL	70 42 pc	58 42 pc	56 42 r	64 52 c
Cincinnati, OH	76 46 s	66 40 pc	61 44 s	68 52 pc
Cleveland, OH	70 49 s	62 42 c	54 41 pc	61 48 c
Concord, NH	64 37 pc	59 41 pc	53 37 sh	58 34 pc
Dallas, TX	82 59 pc	84 56 s	84 66 s	82 65 pc
Des Moines, IA	66 39 s	63 41 s	63 47 c	67 51 sh
Detroit, MI	72 49 pc	60 44 c	56 41 pc	59 46 c
Duluth, MN	47 31 r	46 31 c	44 34 sn	51 42 r
El Paso, TX	89 56 s	89 54 s	90 58 s	85 53 pc
Fairbanks, AK	41 18 pc	37 21 pc	35 17 c	30 14 sf
Fargo, ND	48 27 sh	48 35 c	51 36 c	56 41 r
Flagstaff, AZ	76 32 s	74 39 s	71 33 s	57 29 sh
Grand Isl., NE	70 38 s	72 48 s	72 47 sh	67 47 sh
Hartford, CT	67 43 pc	60 46 pc	57 42 sh	63 41 pc
Hilo, HI	78 68 s	76 67 pc	78 70 pc	81 70 c
Honolulu, HI	82 69 pc	83 67 pc	82 69 pc	85 70 pc
Houston, TX	86 60 pc	86 62 s	86 62 s	84 66 s
Indianapolis, IN	75 45 s	64 38 s	62 43 pc	68 52 pc

LEGEND: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

City	Yest.	Today	Wed.	Thurs.
Jackson, MS	86 51 s	85 48 s	84 52 s	82 55 s
Jacksonville, FL	85 61 sh	84 57 s	84 58 s	82 61 pc
Kansas City, MO	71 44 s	70 47 s	73 54 pc	73 55 sh
Las Vegas, NV	88 59 pc	88 60 s	90 54 s	73 51 pc
Little Rock, AR	82 52 s	79 49 s	79 53 s	80 58 pc
Los Angeles, CA	86 52 pc	78 64 pc	76 62 pc	80 54 s
Louisville, KY	78 48 s	70 42 s	68 49 s	72 54 pc
Memphis, TN	80 53 s	76 50 s	78 56 s	80 59 s
Miami, FL	89 76 sh	88 78 pc	88 78 pc	84 74 t
Milwaukee, WI	66 42 sh	54 41 pc	53 42 r	61 51 c
Minneapolis, MN	55 33 sh	52 36 c	55 41 r	59 49 r
Nashville, TN	81 51 s	74 44 s	73 51 s	76 55 s
New Orleans, LA	84 61 s	80 60 s	81 60 s	82 61 s
New York, NY	67 55 pc	64 53 pc	68 46 sh	64 51 pc
Norfolk, VA	69 55 pc	70 56 pc	67 52 pc	70 55 pc
Oklahoma City	78 53 pc	77 56 s	82 59 s	78 58 pc
Omaha, NE	68 38 s	67 43 s	69 50 sh	70 50 c
Orlando, FL	90 70 t	91 72 pc	87 64 s	84 67 pc
Philadelphia, PA	69 50 pc	66 56 pc	66 46 pc	66 48 pc
Phoenix, AZ	100 67 s	97 69 s	98 65 s	87 60 pc
Pittsburgh, PA	71 48 pc	64 41 pc	54 41 pc	63 45 c
Portland, OR	60 50 r	62 50 sh	57 42 sh	57 45 sh
Rapid City, SD	64 36 s	76 45 pc	64 39 c	58 36 r
Reno, NV	77 41 sh	69 34 pc	68 32 s	59 30 pc
Richmond, VA	71 50 pc	72 50 pc	68 47 s	71 50 pc
St. Louis, MO	74 47 c	71 49 s	68 54 pc	73 58 pc
Sacramento, CA	78 52 pc	76 48 s	77 48 s	72 48 s
Salt Lake City, UT	74 48 s	75 46 s	70 40 s	56 33 sh
San Antonio, TX	87 65 pc	86 60 pc	87 65 s	85 67 s
San Diego, CA	76 64 pc	72 63 pc	72 60 pc	70 56 pc
San Francisco, CA	66 54 pc	66 54 s	66 50 s	66 51 s
San Jose, CA	72 54 pc	72 51 s	70 50 s	71 51 s
Santa Fe, NM	72 38 s	77 43 s	74 42 s	65 37 pc
Seattle, WA	62 51 r	60 48 r	56 41 sh	55 46 sh
Sioux Falls, SD	59 31 s	61 39 s	60 42 sh	61 44 sh



Tampa, FL	90 69 t	88 65 pc	86 64 s	86 66 pc
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Washington, DC	68 53 sh	70 54 pc	68 48 pc	67 50 pc
Wichita, KS	73 49 s	76 54 s	80 58 pc	78 57 sh

CANADA

City	Yest.	Today	Wed.	Thurs.
Calgary, Alb.	48 37 c	55 32 pc	53 24 sh	45 18
Edmonton, Alb.	43 36 sh	50 35 sh	54 27 sh	46 23
Montreal, Que.	61 45 pc	60 45 c	53 35 c	52 40
Ottawa, Ont.	64 46 pc	60 50 sh	51 34 c	54 40
Toronto, Ont.	67 46 pc	58 39 c	53 37 c	60 44
Vancouver, B.C.	53 48 r	58 39 r	43 30 c	49 38
Winnipeg, Man.	40 23 r	41 35 c	41 36 sh	58 41

WORLD

City	Today	City	Today
Acapulco	90 73 t	Manila	89 75
Amsterdam	52 51 r	Mexico City	70 55
Athens	75 63 sh	Moscow	50 48
Beijing	67 48 r	Nassau	85 72
Beirut	88 72 s	Oslo	45 42
Berlin	48 43 pc	Paris	55 48
Brussels	51 50 sh	Rio de Janeiro	81 73
Buenos Aires	72 54 pc	Riyadh	95 64
Cairo	95 72 s	Rome	66 48
Copenhagen	46 44 c	San Juan	87 74
Dublin	61 55 sh	Seoul	76 60
Geneva	54 37 c	Stockholm	46 39
Hong Kong	87 79 pc	Sydney	79 54
Jerusalem	93 66 s	Tokyo	73 64
Kuwait	99 72 s	Vienna	46 37
London	61 57 pc	Warsaw	46 33
Madrid	72 48 pc		

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National Weather Service's Pueblo Web site: (www.crh.noaa.gov/pub).

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Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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FOOTBALL FORTUNE

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WORLD

Death in Sierra Leone: Brushing
y, a military court in Freetown,
d 34 officers to death by firing
up that toppled Sierra Leone's

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sway for 10 months until a
on force restored President
March.

urn homes in Israel: Forest
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were reported. At least 10 fires
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Missing soldiers in North: South
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stars was arrested Monday,
during a break from filming in a

ail for allegedly killing two
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Associated Press

DEMANDING BETTER EDUCATION: Three high Thousands of students in Paris and other school students demonstrate Monday in Paris French cities marched in demand of more teach- by sitting in front of a line of riot police officers. ers and better equipment in their schools.

Syria moves to settle dispute with Turkey

Alleged support of Kurdish rebels created conflict

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey said Monday that Syria appears to have moved toward meeting its demands in a confrontation over Kurdish rebels, the first sign of a breakthrough in a two-week crisis that has threatened war between the two neighbors.

A Syrian message transmitted through Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa "indicates that there is an effort on the Syrian side to meet the concerns that we have raised," Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said.

Turkey accuses Syria of shel-

tering and supporting Turkish Kurdish rebels responsible for cross-border attacks. Two weeks ago, saying its patience had run out, it suggested it might carry out an unspecified military operation.

Syria denies the accusations. Its leaders have said little about the negotiations, other than they believe the dispute can be resolved peacefully.

Turkey's Sabah daily claimed Monday that Syria has given in to Turkish demands and agreed to end its alleged support for the Turkish Kurd rebels.

The rebels are fighting for autonomy for Kurds in southeastern Turkey. The fighting has killed 37,000 people since it started in 1984.

The German-based Kurdish news agency, DEM, quoted rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan as

saying Turkey has stepped up its attacks on the Kurds during the dispute. "It is our patience that has run out," DEM quoted Ocalan as saying.

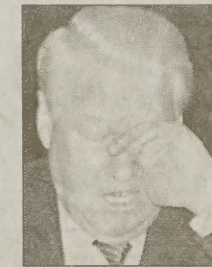
Turkish officials said they were planning maneuvers along its Syrian border in November. There have been unconfirmed reports of a Turkish troop build-up along the border.

Also Monday, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said that despite the confrontation with Syria, he is optimistic major oil companies will choose a route through Turkey for a crucial pipeline to bring crude out from the Caspian Sea region.

Illness halts Yeltsin's trip to republics

Knight Ridder Newspapers

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin, whose chronically poor health has fueled demands for his ouster, was forced to abort a Central Asian trip on Monday because of what his doctor described as a respiratory infection.



Yeltsin: Ailing from respiratory infection.

The 67-year-old president, making his first trip outside Russia in five months, stumbled and at times seemed disoriented during ceremonial appearances with the leaders of

Uzbekistan and Kazakstan, neighboring republics that were part of the Soviet Union.

Yeltsin's power and popularity and had shriveled long before his current illness. But as Russia heads into winter short of food and still awaiting a new economic recovery plan, its president is a shadow of the reassuring father figure and champion of reform he was in 1993, when he stood atop a tank and faced down a communist-led attempt to seize the Russian parliament. Last week, on the eve of nationwide protests, it was Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, not Yeltsin, who addressed the nation on television.

A growing chorus of communists and other political opponents calling for Yeltsin's ouster have cited his poor health to underscore their claim that he is a disengaged president who should step down before the 2000 elections.

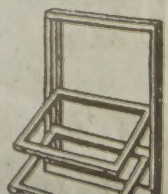
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DUGAN HEARING AID CENTER
When you need to hear well

Hate/'People still feel unsafe here,' director of gay youth group says

From A1

Many people doubt whether such laws are needed, pointing out that existing laws protect everyone equally. But advocates say victims of hate crimes need protection.

"I have seen first-hand the effects of gay bashing, whether that gay bashing was physical or verbal," Rost said. "We deserve equal protection and equal safety under the law."

Those who showed up at Acacia Park to mourn Shepard preached against a climate of hatred.

"No one deserves to be treated the way Matthew was treated," said Eby.

Eby points to the death of James Byrd Jr., a black Texas man who was killed after being dragged behind a pickup truck; the shooting death of Oumar Dia, an African immigrant killed earlier this year in Denver; and the beating death of Shepard as evidence of growing intolerance.

While not as shocking, instances of intolerance have occurred in Colorado Springs, too, said Julia McKay, executive director of Inside Out, a support group for gay youths. She described youths who lost scholarships because coaches found out they were gay, were beaten by their parents or were ridiculed with derogatory comments by classmates.

"People still feel unsafe here," McKay said.

This year, 10 hate crimes have been reported to the Colorado Springs Police Department this year — but only one because of sexual orientation. The crimes range from verbal threats to physical assaults.

Still, activists feel a need for legal protections.

"The primary good that these hate-crime statutes do is articulate the societal message that hate is morally wrong," said Robin Miller, a board member of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center. "Hatred of gays is wrong; it's equally wrong as racial or religious-based prejudice."

Advocates say hate crimes are a different breed. They're

generally more violent, more traumatic and more rampant than people think. Such crimes also tend to galvanize the communities in which they occur, said Sue Anderson, director of Equality Colorado, a Denver-based group that tracks and logs crimes against gays statewide.

"When the motivation is someone's race and sexual orientation and religion, it's an entire community that gets brutalized," she said.

But critics such as Paul Jessen, who heads Colorado for Family Values, say hate-crime laws single out certain people for protection. And many people balk at adding gays and lesbians to the categories of people who are already protected by federal and state laws. They argue that it's unwise to place so much emphasis on the motive behind a crime.

"Whether I kill you for racial reasons, phobic reasons, greedy reasons, robbery reasons or because I just don't like the way you look is irrelevant," Jessen said.

This year, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act was introduced in Congress. If passed, the law would toughen sentences for hate crimes, which include crimes against gays, and allow federal prosecution of such crimes. Nationwide, more than 8,000 incidents of hate crimes were reported to the FBI. About 12 percent of those were related to sexual orientation.

In Colorado, Anderson said, 29 anti-gay crimes were logged with her agency in 1997, but she says many still go unreported.

Whether new laws are passed or not, that doesn't change the fact that people are reeling from a young man's senseless death.

"We grieve over the crime," Miller said. "We're angry over the fact that something like that could happen in this country."

Ovetta Sampson may be reached at 636-0374 or ovetta@gazette.com. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Associated Press



A basket of flowers hangs from a fence post Monday near Laramie, Wyo., where University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard was tied and beaten last week. Shepard died early Monday.

Student/Memorial held on campus

From A1

accessories after the fact. Police said the women helped dump bloody clothing and initially lied about their whereabouts.

Police said robbery was the main motive, but Shepard apparently was chosen in part because he was gay. The 5-foot-2, 105-pound Shepard had been beaten twice in recent months, attacks he attributed to his homosexuality.

In a statement issued by the hospital, Shepard's mother, Judy Shepard, urged parents to hug their children and enjoy every day with them.

Of the 41 states that have hate-crime laws, 21 specifically cover offenses motivated by the victim's sexual orientation. Efforts to pass a hate-crime law in Wyoming have failed several times.

On Monday, the giant rainbow flag symbolizing the gay movement was lowered to half staff in San Francisco's Castro District. College students rallied in downtown Denver to remember Shepard and denounce violence. And in Laramie, where the long-planned Gay Awareness Week began, some students wore yellow and green armbands to send a message of peace.

"It's a great loss to everyone, whether they knew him or not. He was an incredible individual," said Jim Osborn, a friend of Shepard's and chairman of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgen-

dered Association, a University of Wyoming student group.

Shepard was remembered on Monday by about 800 people who attended a memorial service on Prexy's Pasture, the sprawling green on the University of Wyoming campus that students cross several times a day.

"I had never met Matthew; I'll never have that chance," said Jesus Rios, president of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming. "But without a doubt Matthew's life and death have impacted my life in ways I won't soon forget."

Authorities have withheld many details in the case, and a judge is considering a prosecutor's request to seal the records.

Police said the two men lured Shepard out of the Fireside bar late Tuesday or early Wednesday by telling him they were gay. The three of them got in McKinney's truck, where the beating began, police said.

Later, Shepard was tied up and pistol-whipped as he begged for his life, and he was robbed of his wallet and black patent-leather shoes, police said. A .357 Magnum used to beat Shepard was found at McKinney's home, police said.

A funeral was planned for Saturday in Casper, where Shepard was born, and a campus memorial service was being planned.